IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for determining the authorization of the rendering of a digital recording comprising at least one data stream to be rendered, said data stream being contained a track having a number of track sections positioned sequentially, including a first track section and a last track section, said data stream being distributed through each of said track sections, each track section including a sequence ID for identifying the sequential position of the respective track section in the track, said data stream being mixed with watermark data having at least one reserved bit corresponding to a position in each of the track sections, the reserved bit being marked in the watermark data corresponding to the first track section and the last track section, the method comprising the steps of:

a) identifying a first section and a last section of a track in the track containing the data stream to be rendered;

b) decoding a watermark from the first and last sections of the track;

c) determining if at least one reserved bit is marked in the watermark in each of the first and last sections of the track; and

d) determining if sequence IDs are interposed in sections between the first and last sections of the track in sequential order.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

providing at least a preliminary authorization of a rendering of the data sequence if the determinations in steps c and d are both positive.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the method further comprises the step of:~~ A method for determining the authorization of the rendering of a digital recording comprising at least one data stream to be rendered, said data stream being contained a track having a number of track sections positioned sequentially, including a first track section and a last track section, said data stream being distributed through each of said track sections, each track section including a sequence ID for identifying the sequential position of the respective track section in the track, said data stream being mixed with watermark data having at least one reserved bit corresponding to a position in each of the track sections, the reserved bit being marked in the watermark data corresponding to the first track section and the last track section, the method comprising the steps of:

a) identifying a first section and a last section of a track in the track containing the data stream to be rendered;

b) decoding a watermark from the first and last sections of the track;

c) determining if at least one reserved bit is marked in the watermark in each of the first and last sections of the track;

d) determining if sequence IDs are interposed in sections between the first and last sections of the track in sequential order;

e) providing at least a preliminary authorization of a rendering of the data sequence if the determinations in steps c and d are both positive; and

f) denying a rendering of the data sequence if at least one of the determinations in steps c and d are negative.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

rendering subsequent digital tracks that are authorized with zero time gap interposed therebetween.

5. (Original) A method for making a digital recording comprised of a track having a number of sections positioned sequentially, including a first track section and a last track section, the method comprising:

a) providing a data stream for recording in the track; and

b) mixing watermark data with the data stream, the watermark data having at least one reserved bit corresponding to a position in each of the track sections, the reserved bit being marked in the watermark data corresponding to the first track section and the last track section.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

c) converting the mixed watermark data and data stream to a digital form; and

d) recording the track in a recording medium.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the recording medium is a compact disc and the data stream comprises music data.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the step of recording the track in a recording medium includes recording a sequence ID in each of the sequential track sections, the sequence ID identifying the sequential position of the respective track section in the track.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the step of recording the track in a recording medium includes recording a sequence ID in each of the sequential track sections, the sequence ID identifying the sequential position of the respective track section among a multiplicity of other tracks, each comprised of track sections.

10. (Previously Presented) A recording medium having at least one track of data including a watermark recorded therein, the at least one track of data comprised of a number of track sections including respective portions of the data, said track sections including a first track section and a last track section, the track sections having at least one special bit reserved in the watermark, the special bit being marked in the first track section and the last track section.

11. (Previously Presented) The recording medium as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the recording medium is a compact disc.

12. (Previously Presented) The recording medium as claimed in Claim 10, wherein each track section of the track includes sequence ID data that identifies the sequential position of the track section in the track.

13. (Previously Presented) The recording medium as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the sequence IDs for the sequence of track sections beginning with the first track section and ending with the last track section are 1, 2, ..., n, where n is the number of track sections in the track.

14. (Previously Presented) The recording medium as claimed in Claim 10, wherein each track section of the track includes sequence ID data that identifies the sequential position of the respective track section among a multiplicity of other tracks, each comprised of track sections.

15. (Previously Presented) The recording medium as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the sequence IDs for the sequence of track sections beginning with the first track section and ending with the last track section are n, n+1, ..., n+m, where n is the sequence ID for the first track section and m is the number of track sections in the track.

16. (Previously Presented) The recording medium as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the track of data comprises music data.

17. (Previously Presented) The recording medium as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the track of data comprises music data mixed with watermark data that is converted into a digital form prior to recording the track.

18. (Previously Presented) A method for determining the authorization of the rendering of a digital recording, the method comprising the steps of:

a) decoding a watermark from a first section of a track;

b) determining if at least one reserved bit is marked in the watermark in the first section of the track; and

c) denying authorization if the determination in step b is negative.

19) (Previously Presented) A method for making a digital recording comprised of a track having a number of sections positioned sequentially, including a first track section and a last track section, the method comprising:

a) providing a data stream for recording in the track; and

b) mixing watermark data with the data stream, the watermark data having at least one reserved bit corresponding to a position in each of the track sections, the reserved bit being marked in the watermark data corresponding to the first track section.